

ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 6, June 2009

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The U.S Independence Day: 4th of July



The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of Founding Father John Adams, the holiday would be

“the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance. ... It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

The Fourth of July holiday is a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Anglo-American tradition of political freedom.

Read more at:
<http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2008/June/20060628141729JNmamdeirF0.745434.html>

Declaration of Independence

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson between June 11 and June 28, 1776, the Declaration of Independence is at once the nation's most cherished symbol of liberty and Jefferson's most enduring monument. Here, in exalted and unforgettable phrases, Jefferson expressed the conviction in the minds and hearts of the American people.

Read more at:
<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html>

More resources on Independence Day related topics:

LOC: Today in History— July 4
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jul04.html>

The Charters of Freedom
<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html>

Photo Gallery: Celebration of 4th of July
<http://photos.america.gov/galleries/amgov/30145/july0409/>

About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

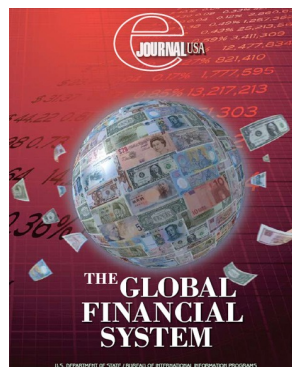
Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

The Global Financial System

Experts describe the mechanics of the global financial system presenting their views concerning the cyclical nature of markets, the interdependence of global trade relationships, and the role of regulation.

You can download full text of the journal from:
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0509.html>

More publications from America.gov please visit:
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ARTICLE ALERT

A NEW BEGINNING: *Engaging with Muslims Worldwide*

http://www.america.gov/obama_cairo.html



Blog: Obama Today

The Obama Today blog follows President Obama's initiatives and policy directions.

For details:
<http://blogs.america.gov/obama/>

Multimedia America.gov

Webchats

Join our online community of experts, business leaders and government officials in a webchat or webcast.

Photo Gallery

America.gov photo galleries offer a visual tour of the stories and issues shaping our world.

Podcasts

Download America.gov's podcasts to your computer or MP3 player for a quick briefing on key issues.

Video

America.gov's videos provide a close-up look at the people, places and events behind the news.

Link:
<http://www.america.gov/multimedia.html>

1. Dannheisser, Ralph **STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ENCOURAGES DIALOG WITH MUSLIM WORLD.** U.S. Department of State. May 12, 2009.

President Obama and his administration are fully committed to pursuing "a deep and positive dialogue with Muslims around the world based on mutual respect and in support of our mutual interests," according to a key State Department official. The magnitude of the challenges faced makes it vital to go beyond interactions between governments to "reach out and develop partnerships with all elements of civil society," said acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Madelyn Spirnak. Available online at <http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2009/May/20090512115531HMnietsuA0.8662836.html>

2. **REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OBAMA TO THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT.** The White House. April 6, 2009.

President Obama addresses the Turkish Parliament, reaching out to the Muslim world. Available online at http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-By-President-Obama-To-The-Turkish-Parliament/

3. Merle David Kellerhals, Jr. **PRESIDENT OBAMA SPEAKS AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY JUNE 4.** U.S. Department of State. June 04, 2009.

Saying he came to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, President Obama told an audience in Cairo June 4 that the cycle of suspicion and discord that has defined the relationship for so long must end. Available online at <http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2009/June/20090603172847dmslahrellek0.882641.html>

Global Issues

4. Thompson, Clive **MAN-MADE NOISE MAY BE ALTERING EARTH'S ECOLOGY** (Wired, vol. 16, no. 6, June 2008)

The author notes that noise from human activities, such as aircraft, highway traffic and construction is not just an aesthetic nuisance – it is becoming a serious environmental issue. The author notes that some researchers believe that this is how they can coexist so well. Noise from human activities can interfere with various acoustic frequencies, compromising species' ability to communicate and making them vulnerable to predation. This is possibly a factor in many species' decline worldwide. Available online at http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/16-06/st_thompson

5. Wolfshenk, Joshua **WHAT MAKES US HAPPY** (Atlantic Monthly, June 2009)

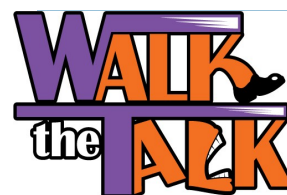
For more than 70 years, Harvard University researchers have been collecting data on a group of its male students to gain some insights into the keys to "successful living." The collected data of what is known as the Grant Study, passed from one generation of researchers to another, amounts to a rare kind of longitudinal study. Wolfshenk is the first journalist to comb through the accumulated files and draw some conclusions about whether the data does what it set out to do. The primary researcher on the study for more than forty years says the lives of the 268 subjects, half of whom are now deceased, "were too human for science, too beautiful for numbers, too sad for diagnosis and too immortal for bound journals." Available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200906/happiness>

Economic Issues

6. Fukuyama, Francis **A SENSE OF UNREALITY** (American Interest, May-June 2009)

The author writes that there is a “pervasive sense of unreality” in Washington about the scale of the economic crisis facing the U.S. and the rest of the world. The current administration’s economic policy team seems to be operating, says Fukuyama, on the assumption that the problem facing the financial system is one of illiquidity and not of insolvency, and that their task is to prop up the banks until their toxic assets can be fairly valued. The problems run deeper than that, says Fukuyama, resulting from years of Americans consuming and spend-

ing more than they were saving or producing, and trillions of dollars from abroad fueling the rapid increase of debt. He points out that this is a non-partisan crisis – both Republicans and Democrats were complicit in the deregulation of the financial sector that enabled the explosion of the shadow banking economy. The crisis is primarily a failure of U.S. public policy, writes Fukuyama, and “now that the public sector is cleaning up behind them, we need to move from astonishment to a different model of capitalism if we are to fix our own economy and regain a shred of credibility on the world stage.” Currently available online at <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=604>



“Walk the Talk” is a new reality-show program starring Jason Daniels, which began broadcasting weekly on Trans-7 on Sunday, April 26 at 10 am. The 13-episode program is designed to help teach English in an entertaining and unusual way. The program host takes viewers to different places throughout Indonesia and uses practical English-language vocabulary and phrases commonly used in daily conversation.

During his travels, he interviews English-speaking Indonesian celebrities, including, Luna Maya, Hanung Bramantyo, Ade Rai and the band Alexa, to name a few. During the last segment of the half-hour show, regular Indonesians are encouraged to practice their English in everyday situations.

Each episode has a specific theme, such as mass transportation, creative arts, social entrepreneurship and others that helps viewers learn useful phrases and vocabulary in different situations. The program was taped in various cities including Padang, Balikpapan, Makassar, Semarang, Surabaya, Malang, Bali and Jakarta.

Link:
<http://www.trans7.co.id/trans7new/>

International Security

7. Coutu, Diane **SMART POWER: GREAT LEADERS KNOW WHEN HARD POWER IS NOT ENOUGH** (Harvard Business Review, vol. 86, no. 11, November 2008, pp. 55-59)

In this interview with Joseph Nye, former American government official as well as former dean of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy’s School of Government, the author, senior editor at HBR, discusses challenges ahead for the U.S., including combining hard power, characterized

by coercion, and “soft” power, which relies on attraction. The combination of hard and “soft” power results in smart power, a tool used to mobilize people around agendas that look beyond current problems. Although some men have used smart power, it is particularly difficult for women to lead with it, since there is often pressure for them to prove they are not “soft”. Power is a tool, with clear communication serving as one of its most effective instruments.

U.S. Society and Values

8. Knapp, Jeffrey **LEGAL RESEARCH: AN INTRODUCTION TO KEY ONLINE AND PRINT SOURCES** (Choice, vol. 46, no. 8, April 2009, pp. 1439//1449)

The author, a librarian with Pennsylvania State University, Altoona, offers a basic overview of the legal process, a collection of resources for finding primary and secondary sources of legal information, resources for understanding the legal process, and resources specifically tailored for legal research.

9. Mahbubani, Kishore **CAN AMERICA FAIL?** (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 33, no. 2, Spring 2009, 48-54)

The author, dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School

of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, believes that the massive crises that the U.S. is now experiencing are partly the product of three systemic failures. The author sees the American people losing confidence in their ability to compete with Chinese and Indian workers. At the moment of their country’s greatest economic vulnerability in many decades, few Americans dare to speak the truth and say that the U.S. cannot retreat from globalization; both the American people and the world would be worse off. However, as globalization and global capitalism create new forces of “creative destruction,” America will have to restructure its economy and society in order to compete. Currently available online at http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=518042

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Information Resource Center
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Jakarta
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5
Jakarta Pusat 10110

Phone: 021-350-8467
Fax: 021-350-8466
E-mail: IRCAAlert@state.gov

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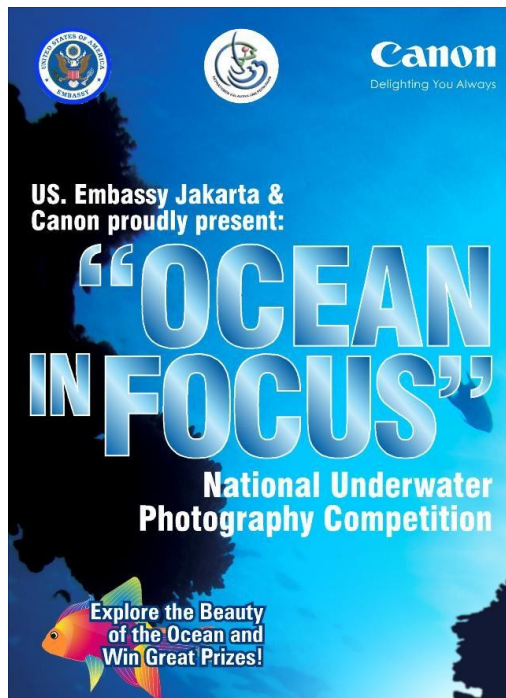
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Special Offers:

- () The Global Financial System (see page 1)



**Submission closed on
June 30, 2009**

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http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/press_rel/May09/ocean.html